



Fiscal Impact Statement for Proposed Legislation

Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission

House Bill No. 963 (Patron – LaRock)

LD#: 16103827

Date: 1/12/2016

Topic: Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act

Fiscal Impact Summary:

- **State Adult Correctional Facilities:**
\$50,000 *
- **Local Adult Correctional Facilities:**
Cannot be determined, likely to be small
- **Adult Community Corrections Programs:**
Cannot be determined, likely to be small

- **Juvenile Correctional Centers:**
None (\$0)*
- **Juvenile Detention Facilities:**
None (\$0)*

* Provided by the Department of Juvenile Justice

* The estimated amount of the necessary appropriation cannot be determined for periods of imprisonment in state adult correctional facilities; therefore, Chapter 665 of the 2015 Acts of Assembly requires the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission to assign a minimum fiscal impact of \$50,000.

Summary of Proposed Legislation:

The proposal adds § 18.2-76.3 through 18.2-76.12 relating to abortion and establishes the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. The proposal prohibits abortions after the unborn child reaches 20 or more weeks postfertilization age unless certain criteria are met. The proposal also specifies certain protocols for performing abortions. In addition, a physician who performs an abortion would be required to report certain details to the Board of Health. An intentional or reckless falsification of the report to the Board would be punishable as a Class 1 misdemeanor. Any person who intentionally or recklessly performs or induces an abortion that violates the provisions of the proposal would be guilty of a Class 4 felony.

Currently, under §§ 18.2-71 and 18.2-71.1, unlawfully producing an abortion or performing partial birth infanticide are Class 4 felonies. It is a Class 3 misdemeanor under § 18.2-76.1 to encourage, promote or advertise any prohibited abortion procedures. Violations related to consent for abortions are punishable as Class 3 misdemeanors under § 16.1-241.

Analysis:

According to fiscal year (FY) 2014 and FY2015 data from the General District Court and Circuit Court Case Management Systems (CMS), there were no convictions under the existing abortion-related statutes of §§ 18.2-71, 18.2-71.1, 18.2-76.1 or 16.1-241 during the two-year period.

Impact of Proposed Legislation:

State adult correctional facilities. By establishing a new felony offense, the proposal may increase the future state-responsible (prison) bed space needs of the Commonwealth. However, existing databases do not provide sufficient detail to estimate the number of new felony convictions that may result from enactment of the proposal. Although the magnitude of the impact on prison beds cannot be quantified, the impact, if any, is likely to be small.

Local adult correctional facilities. Similarly, the proposal may increase the local-responsible (jail) bed space needs, but the magnitude of the impact cannot be determined. The impact, if any, is likely to be small.

Adult community corrections programs. Because the proposal could result in additional felony convictions and subsequent supervision requirements for an additional number of offenders, the proposal may increase the need for adult community corrections resources. Since the number of cases that may be affected cannot be determined, the potential impact on community corrections resources cannot be quantified.

Virginia's sentencing guidelines. The sentencing guidelines do not currently cover abortion law violations as the primary (most serious) offense in a sentencing event. However, a conviction for an abortion-related crime (as an additional offense) may augment the guidelines recommendation if the most serious offense at sentencing is covered by the guidelines. No adjustment to the guidelines would be necessary under the proposal.

Juvenile correctional centers. According to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), the proposal is not expected to increase juvenile correctional center bed space needs.

Juvenile detention facilities. The Department of Juvenile Justice reports that the proposal is not expected to increase the bed space needs of juvenile detention facilities.

Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation cannot be determined for periods of imprisonment in state adult correctional facilities; therefore, Chapter 665 of the 2015 Acts of Assembly requires the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission to assign a minimum fiscal impact of \$50,000.

Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation is \$0 for periods of commitment to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice.

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